



Part III Advent Theme 12/ 23/2007

Life into a World of Death

Opening: Erin's Kids

Text: John 1:1 Luke 1

Introduction: We all know the story of Christmas but do we know what Christmas is all about? For knowledge and understanding are distinct from each other.

I. UNDERSTAND WHO JESUS IS AND YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT CHRISTMAS IS

Read **John 1: 1-5 10 -14**

The author (penned writer) of Gospel of John is also the writer of the book of Revelation, John the Apostle

Revelation is written in cryptic code and this Gospel begins in a similar fashion

The Word ... Of whom does John speak of? This is a term that Greek and Hebrew theologians would recognize

**The Spoken Word of God ... The Written Word of God ... The Living Word of God
JESUS**

Jesus said of the scriptures ... read the volume of the book for it speaks of me! We read and study the Bible to discover the nature of God to discover the nature of Jesus

II. JESUS IS LIFE

John leaves no room for speculation ... Jesus is the **pre-existent** God ... In the beginning The Creator of all things

Life itself was in Him ... He brought **Life into a world of Death**

→ **Verse 4** What does John refer to when he states that **Life itself was in Jesus**?

Jesus disciple Thomas in a moment of frustration blurted out to Jesus ... we don't know where you are going so how can we know the way?!

Jesus replied ... **I Am** the W____ the T_____ and the Life

Jesus is life

Verse 4 Life itself was in Him and this life gives light to everyone, the light shines through darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.

The darkness John speaks of here is not a physical darkness. He was speaking of a spiritual darkness of the Evil powers and principalities that Paul writes of in Ephesians.

Jesus has been called the second Adam ... Adam was the *Son of God* a direct creation of God made perfect until he decided that he knew more than God and from there **death entered the world**

Physical, and spiritual death ... we were not designed for death ... a study of the human body shows that every cell has the ability to not only repair itself but renew itself Skin and bone cells daily, digestive track daily. Medical experts say it takes about six months for our body to completely renew itself. Yet death is a reality.

Jesus was the Messiah he came to bring life and light to all people ... **Spiritual life abundant life and eternal life.** The eternal God entered his own creation. Jesus was transcendent ...

His mission to bring life to conqueror death

The creator of all things he entered his own creation as one of us.

His mission here on earth began in a manger and was finished on a cross!

III. NEW LIFE

When Jesus enters a life, that life cannot remain the same... The power of who he is, is life transforming!

Story ... Dr. H____ who works with John Dobrie has recently received Jesus into his heart this man's life by the testimony of those who work around him has been transformed. He is pain and his cancer worsens he has even gone to John to ask him to forgive him for previous behavior. See prayer chain ... to pray for him

Krystn's testimony possible here ...

IV. CONDITIONS

Are God's promises conditional do they include all people?

Verse 11 & 12 tells us that even his own people did not receive him ... *but all who believe he gave the right to become the children of God*

We are going to use this verse as a bridge ...

Luke 1 & 2 contain the Christmas Story

Doctor Luke wonderfully portrays the preordained plan of God with response of ordinary people who became anything but ordinary.

It contains the story of the manger and the angelic choir singing to the shepherds and the gifts of the Magi.

But ... our focus will go on two people Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist and Mary the virgin mother of Jesus.

Why these two? Because they illustrate the importance ordinary people play in the purpose, selection and plan of God

Read Luke 1: 34-38

Verse 37 “For nothing is impossible with God”

Verse 38 “...I am willing to accept whatever he wants.”

Read Luke 1: 42 – 46 read “You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”

Are God’s Plans and promises conditional non-inclusive for all people?

See Bruce Wilkinson author of The Jabez Prayer ... Excerpt from pages 40-41

What is God waiting for? ... an invitation ... Will you believe?

Nothing is impossible with God but Elizabeth’s comment rings in our hearts ... *You are blessed because you believed!*

God is waiting to accomplish great things here you will be blessed because of it ... What are you waiting for?

